

other papers on behalf of the poor harmless so-called 'Guana' (Sleeping Lizard). In my many business callings over all parts of Tasmania I have found a general desire to destroy these reptiles under the erroneous impression that they are venomous. It is very generally admitted that the sleeping lizard (*Cyclodus nigrolutens*) will attack and kill snakes; and I can certainly, of my own experience, assert that they will kill *young* snakes. What a pity then to destroy them!"]

The Hon. Secretary read a paper contributed by Dr. E. T. Higgins and Mr. W. F. Petterd, entitled a "Description of a new species of *Mus*, with a list of the terrestrial animals of Tasmania."

Conversational discussion ensued, and the meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the authors of the paper and to the donors of presentations.

OCTOBER, 1883.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Monday, 8th October, Mr. C. H. Grant in the chair.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Barnard) brought forward the following returns for the month of September, viz. :—

1. Number of visitors to Museum :—
On Sundays, 896 ; on week days, 735 ; total, 1,631.
2. Ditto to Gardens.—Total, 5,940.
3. Plants, etc., received at Gardens :—
From Lady Dry, 24 varieties of seeds from Ceylon.
From H. Low and Co., London, 1 case plants.
From Mr. C. F. Creswell, Melbourne, 26 plants.
4. Sent from Gardens :—
To Mr. C. F. Creswell, 1 case plants (various.)
5. Books and Periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorology :—

1. Hobart, from Captain Shortt, Government Observer, weather report for September.
2. From ditto, table of rainfall at various stations in Tasmania.
The following are the results of the Hobart observations :—
Barometer.—Mean. of three daily observations, 29·781in.
Thermometers.—Means. : Max. 58·4 ; Min., 42·3 ; dry bulb, 51·5 ; wet bulb, 47·1.
Humidity.—Dew point, 42·5 ; humidity, ·714 ; elastic force of vapour, ·272.

Condensation.—No. of days' rain, 11 ; amount collected, 1·99in.

Clouds.—Mean daily amount (0—10 scale) ; 6·7.

Wind.—Mean force, 2 (0—12) ; prevailing direction, N.W. and S.

Remarks.—The highest temperature in the shade was 69° on the 11th ; the lowest, 37·2, on the night of the 22nd. Highest recording of the barometer, 30·233in. at 9 a.m. on the 16th ; lowest, 28·840in., from 3 to 6 a.m. on the 3rd. The rainfall during the month was less than that of September, 1882, excepting in the S.E. portion of the colony, where it was greater. The heaviest fall registered in Hobart was 1·17in. on the 4th, and at Fingal 3½in. on the 12th. A strong gale of wind blowing from the southward, on the 4th. In the latter part of the month the sky to the westward, for an hour or two after sunset, was illuminated with an unusually rose-tinted appearance, caused by the zodiacal light, seldom seen in the higher latitudes except at the beginning of spring to the westward, after sunset, and at the beginning of autumn to the eastward before sunrise. Earthquake shocks are still felt in the disturbed districts, the observers at Launceston and Falmouth report eight for the month.

Rainfall in Tasmania, September, 1883 :—

			in.
Southport, rain fell on	9	days ; amount	2·09
Hobart, city	„ 11	„ „	1·90
Ditto, Bot. Gardens	9	„ „	1·79
Oatlands	„ 8	„ „	1·43
Fingal	„ 6	„ „	4·43
Ditto, Killymoon	„ 9	„ „	3·59
Falmouth	„ 7	„ „	2·21
Launceston	„ 11	„ „	2·54
Low Head	„ 10	„ „	1·50
Mount Bischoff	„ 21	„ „	3·96
Circular Head	„ 14	„ „	2·80
Gould's Country	„ 6	„ „	4·96
Clarence Plains	„ 7	„ „	2·60
Mount Nelson	„ 7	„ „	2·55

Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during September 1883 :—

- 14th. Oak commencing to leaf.
- 16th. Mountain Peony commencing to flower.
- 23rd. Horse-chestnut, ditto.
- 24th. Sycamore commencing to break.
- 26th. Robinia Pseudo-Acacia, ditto.
- 22nd. Ash, ditto.
- 27th. Grape vines, ditto.
- 28th. Platanus orientalis, ditto.

Presentations to Museum :—

1. From Mrs. Lodder, the Leven, 89 specimens of Tasmanian Lepidoptera, including two of the Convolvulus Hawk Moth (*Sphinx Convolvuli*.)
2. From Mr. F. Tucker, per Mr. Pitt, Mona Vale. An Australian grebe (*Podiceps Australis*), shot at Lake Sorell.
3. From Mr. T. Merry. Specimen of sponge from near Tasman's Island.
4. From Mr. R. H. Davies, Torquay. Specimen of the radiated form of mica, with schorl, from Ruin Island, Furneaux Group, Bass' Straits (with note.)
5. From Mr. R. M. Johnston. A specimen of the "Port Phillip Pike," (*Sphyraena Novæ Hollandiæ*) caught in Sandy Bay. (With a paper).
6. From the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works. A mounted copy of the new map of Tasmania.
7. From Mr. William Knight, M.A., of Trafalgar Place. Specimens of sulphur and sulphate of lime from White Island, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand.

Mr. STEPHENS exhibited some fine specimens of precious opal from the borders of Queensland and New South Wales, found chiefly in very hard boulders derived from a volcanic formation.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON read a paper entitled : "Some further additions to the list of the known fishes of Tasmania."